



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

# Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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**Description:**

- A concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) is an agricultural operation where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. CAFOs congregate animals, feed, animal waste and operations on a small land area. Feed is brought to the animals rather than the animals grazing or otherwise seeking feed in pastures or fields.
- Each CAFO in Indiana is required to obtain either a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or an individual NPDES permit which is more stringent and specific to the operation.

**Environmental Impacts:**

- If not properly managed, manure and wastewater from a CAFO can pose a threat to waters of the state, violating the Federal Clean Water Act. For this reason, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has strict rules of operation that are written into the CAFO NPDES permit.
- Farms are not allowed to have a manure discharge to waters of the state.
- IDEM's rules for farms have been in place since 1971 and are more stringent than federal rules.

**IDEM's Role:**

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Office of Land Quality (OLQ) regulates, monitors and permits CAFOs. IDEM is responsible for administering the State of Indiana's CAFO Law (IC 13-18-10) and approval program. IDEM's CAFO regulatory program is based on water pollution control laws and rules adopted by the Indiana Water Pollution Control Board. Environmental scientists, engineers and geologists from IDEM's OLQ evaluate CAFO approval applications with applicable laws and regulations.
- This technical review is thorough and rigorous, inspecting each aspect of the plans that have been submitted. IDEM technical staff can ask for further information or determine that the plans submitted need to be changed for optimal best management practices.
- IDEM's CAFO operational standards include an NPDES permit/construction approval which contains, at a minimum, the following requirements:
  - Performance standards for CAFO's
    - The facility must be managed to avoid a discharge of manure, process wastewater, or contaminated storm water into waters of the state.
    - All confinement barns and waste management structures must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimize leakage, seepage and to prevent spills or discharges of manure/process wastewater.

- General conditions
  - The permittee shall maintain an operating record which contains, but is not limited to, all permits, self-inspection records, land application records, spill response plans, storm water pollution prevention plan and a soil conservation practice plan.
  - The permittee shall submit an annual report by February 15 of each year for the previous calendar year identifying:
    - Number and type of animals in confinement;
    - Estimated amount of total manure/process wastewater generated by the operation;
    - Estimated amount of manure/process wastewater transferred to other persons; and,
    - Total number of acres available for land application
- Manure handling and storage operational requirements
  - The permit contains best management practices designed to prevent a discharge of wastewater to waters of the state.
  - All waste management systems must be maintained and operated to meet the conditions and requirements of the permit.
- Land application of manure
  - The facility shall base land application rates on crop nutrient demand, fertility levels of the soil as determined by soil testing, and potentially available nitrogen or phosphorus in the manure/process wastewater as determined by soil and manure analysis.
  - Manure/process wastewater shall not be land applied on saturated ground.
  - Land application of manure/process wastewater must meet the conditions and requirements of the permit.
- Zoning and development issues fall under the jurisdiction of local government. Issues such as property values, road traffic, odors and other issues are not addressed by state laws that govern CAFOs.

#### **Citizen's Role:**

- Citizens may get involved in the process of CAFO permitting in the following ways:
  - When a public notice is issued for a draft permit, citizens will be given 30 days to submit comments about the CAFO operation.
  - Citizens may request a public hearing for a proposed CAFO.
  - If a public hearing does occur, citizens may attend to make their comments which will be part of the public record as recorded by a court reporter.
  - Citizens can work with their local government to address zoning laws and land use.

#### **More Information:**

- For more information on CAFOs, visit IDEM's Web site at <http://www.in.gov/idem/4994.htm>
- For more information about pending permits, visit <http://www.in.gov/idem/4852.htm#cafes>
- For questions and concerns, feel free to call IDEM's Office of Land Quality at (317) 232-4473.